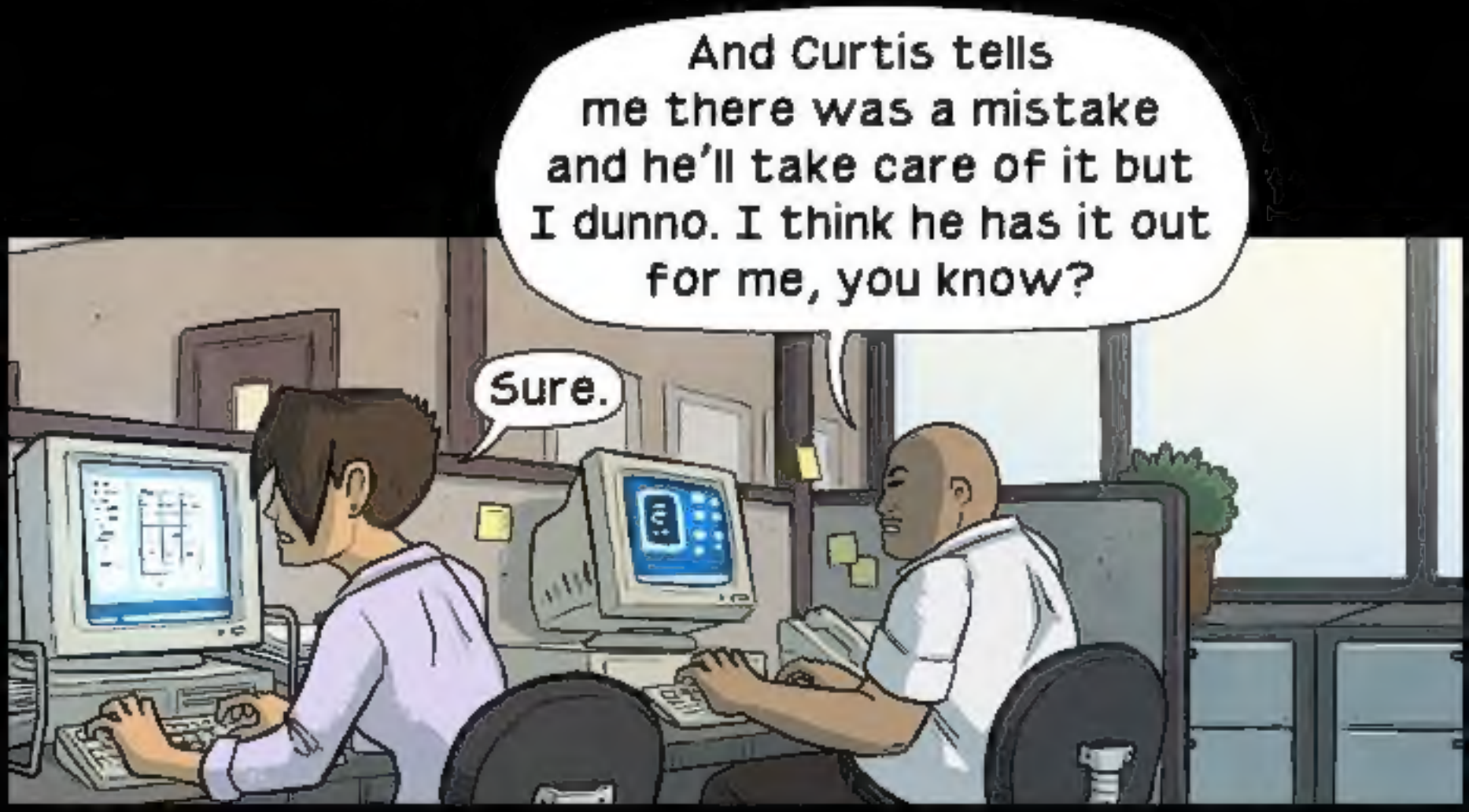
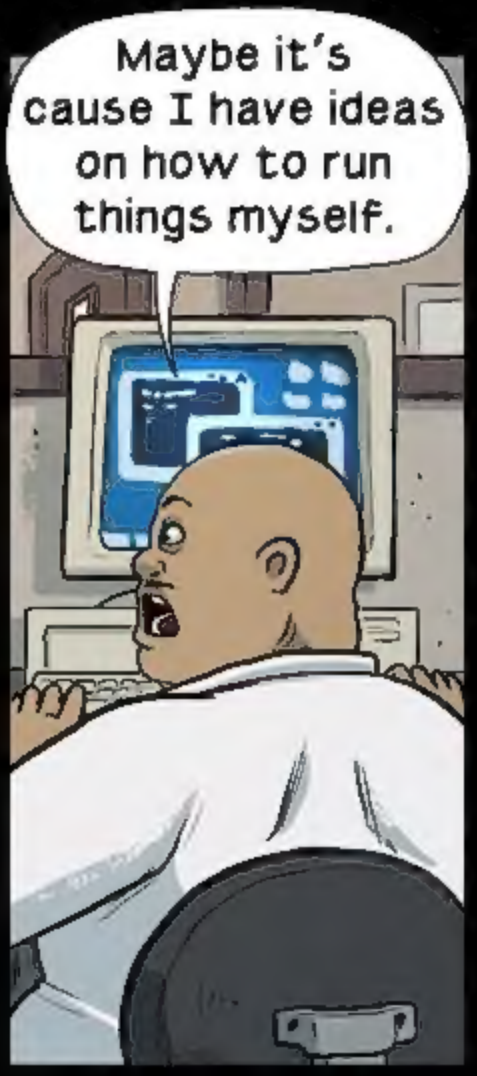
# THE SWORD INTERVAL

BY BEN FLEUTER

...and Rodney and Curtis tell me I'll be assistant manager once we launch the new branch.
I've been here twelve years now. I deserve more responsibility.
Uh huh.

But then we launch, and I call Stacey, and she tells me there's no openings for assistant managers.
Right.


And Curtis tells me there was a mistake and he'll take care of it but I dunno. I think he has it out for me, you know?
Sure.


Maybe it's cause I have ideas on how to run things myself.

Yeah. I'd make some changes.

Jeez Luis, sounds like they're giving you the runaround. I wouldn't put up with it.
Easy for you to say. You're temping.

Yup. Outta here before you know it.

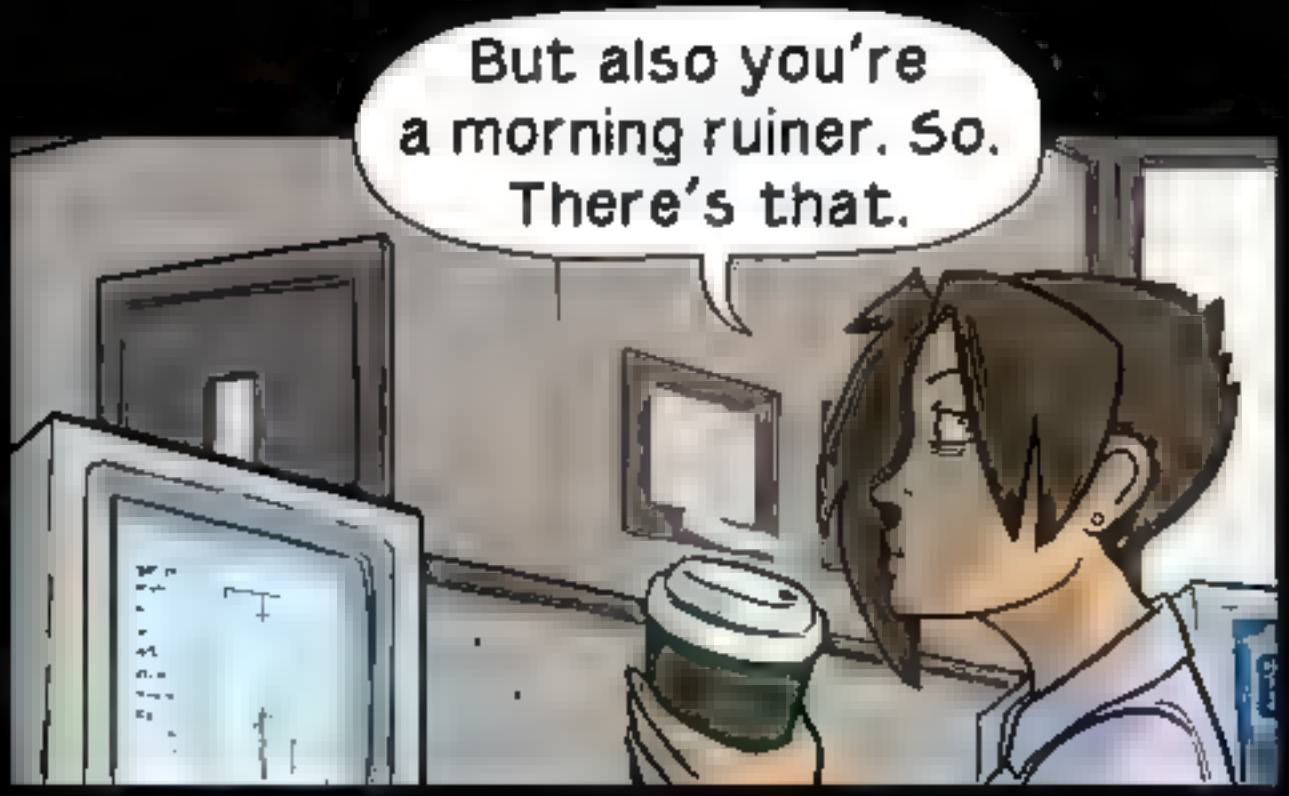
Yeah. Yeah me too, and they'll miss me, I'll tell you that! Hah! I don't even want to run this place. This job's just a way to save up and go back to veterinary school.
Uh huh...

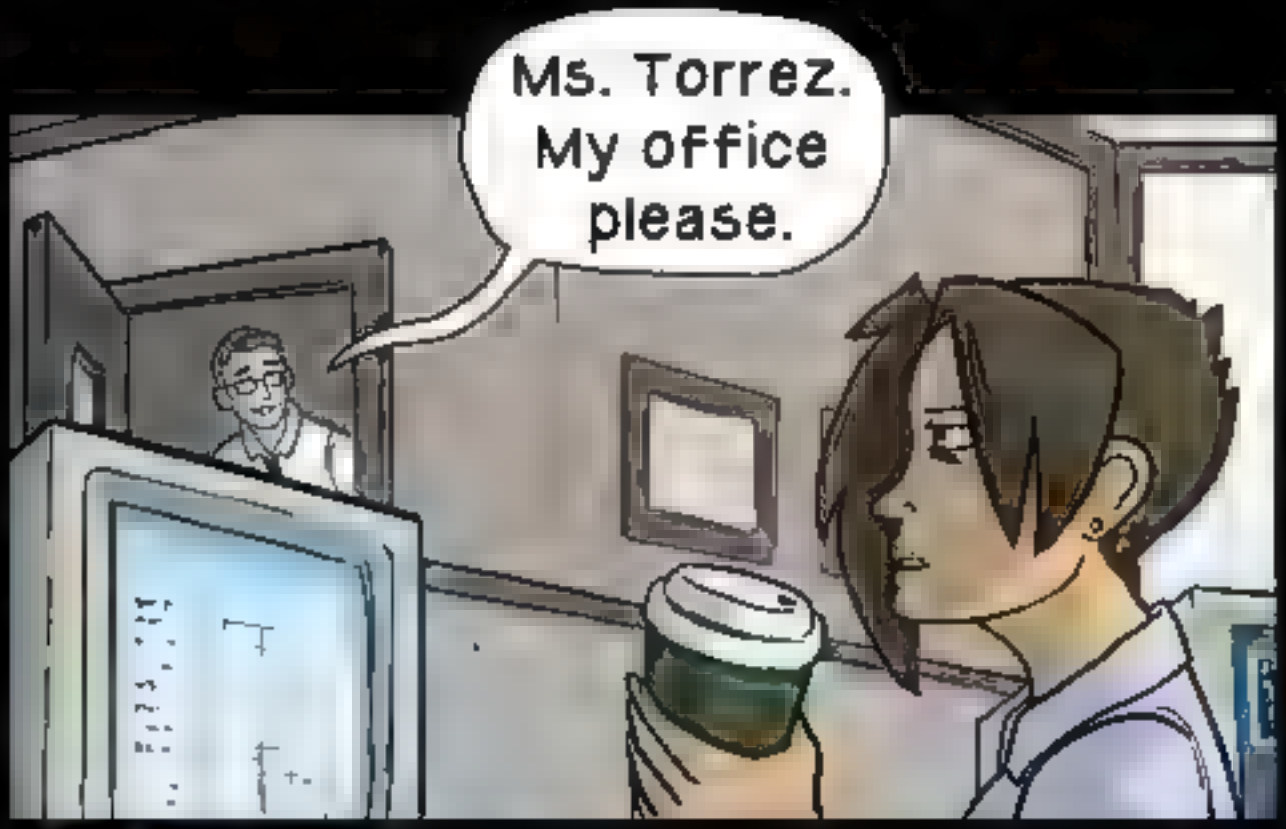
...Wait.
*How* long have you been working here?

Twelve years. Why?
Hmm.

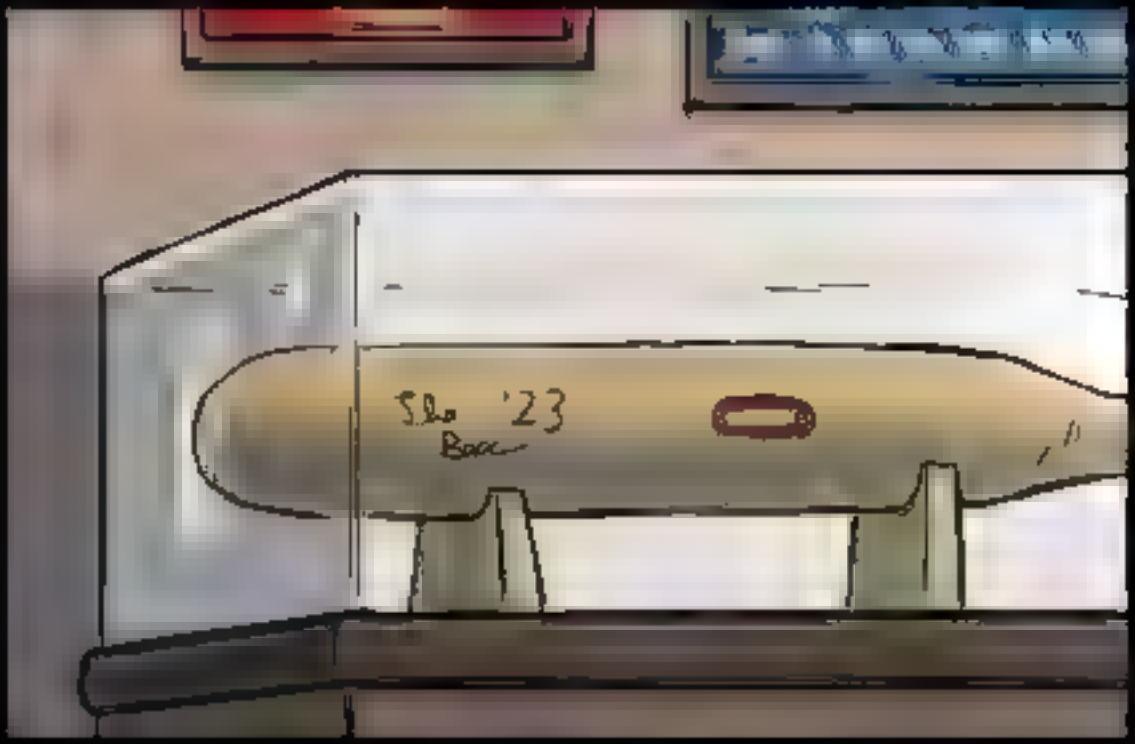
Hey.

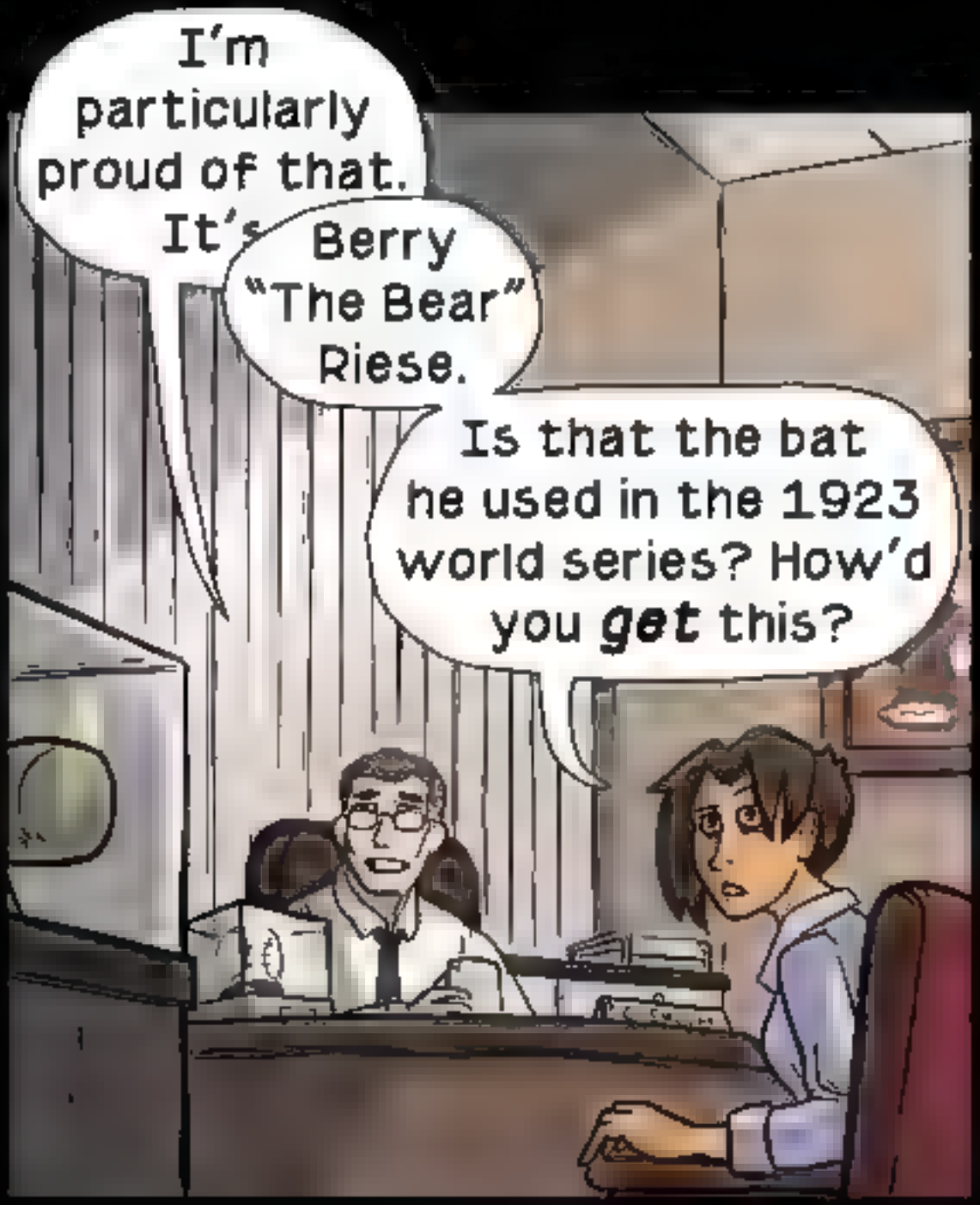
Oh thank god.
You're a lifesaver.


But also you're a morning ruiner. So. There's that.


Ms. Torrez. My office please.

You'll have to forgive all the nicnacs, I'm something of a baseball nut.


Sho '23
Bac


I'm particularly proud of that. It's
Berry "The Bear" Riese.
Is that the bat he used in the 1923 world series? How'd you get this?

Oh, you know your stuff!
Yeah, my dad and me used to–

Anyhoo. That's not why I called you here. I heard you were late coming in again?
That's cause-
C. SMITH

Now, I don't think you want to be here, Carlita. And I know it's easy to feel that way when you're temping from place to place...

..but this company
s like a machine, an
ery piece, no mat
small has to be
rt. You see Ms.
h blah innovative
ah synergy blah b
costomercentri
blah blah

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